

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 157218
ORIGIN HA-05

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DRAFTED BY HA:FASIEVERTS:LIF

APPROVED BY HA:PMDERIAN

EA/VLC - MR. BROWN

HA-ORM - MR. CARLIN

CA - MR. DEW

CA-PPT - MR. LAWRENCE (INFO)

CA/SCS-MR. GISE(INFO)

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P R 210141Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0591

JCTC BARBERS POINT HAWAII

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 157218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, VN

SUBJECT: REUNION OF FAMILIES FROM VIETNAM

1. SRV HAS INFORMED SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY (D.-MASS.) THAT IT PLANS SHORTLY TO ALLOW SOME 15 AMCIT CHILDREN WITH US PASSPORTS, AND THEIR VIETNAMESE MOTHERS, TO DEPART VIETNAM TO JOIN RELATIVES (AMERICAN FATHERS) IN THE U.S.

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2. THIS DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWS MEETING IN PARIS MAY 27 BETWEEN SENATOR KENNEDY'S REFUGEE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF (DALE DEHAAN AND JERRY TINKER) AND SRV AMBASSADOR VO VAN SUNG, IN WHICH STAFFERS PROVIDED A LIST OF THESE CHILDREN, WHICH HAD BEEN COMPILED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO SRV RED CROSS BY ICRC IN GENEVA.

3. KENNEDY'S OFFICE ASKED VIETNAMESE IF IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO INFORM FAMILIES, AND SRV CABLED BACK JUNE 20 ASKING THAT THIS NOT BE DONE FOR THE TIME BEING BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL "SEARCHING FOR THE HOME ADDRESSES OF SOME OF THE CHILDREN IN VIETNAM."

4. AMERICAN RED CROSS AND WE HAD VETTED LIST CAREFULLY, SO PRESUMABLY THIS MEANS SOME OF THE CHILDREN HAVE CHANGED ADDRESSES WITHOUT THEIR RELATIVES IN THE U.S. BEING INFORMED

(NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF LONG DELAYS IN EXCHANGE OF MAIL BETWEEN U.S. AND VIETNAM).

5. KENNEDY'S OFFICE HAS INFORMED NY TIMES AND BOSTON GLOBE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND WE EXPECT STORY WILL BE PUBLISHED JUNE 21.

6. COMMENT: AMERICAN RED CROSS, ICRC, UNHCR, AND WE HAVE MADE CONTINUING EFFORTS IN PAST YEAR TO ARRANGE FAMILY REUNIONS FOR RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN VIETNAM. LIST OF 15 CHILDREN WITH U.S. PASSPORTS WAS COMPILED IN EFFORT TO MAKE AT LEAST A BEGINNING ON CASES FOR WHOM THERE COULD BE NO POSSIBLE VISA QUESTION. KENNEDY'S STAFFERS DISCUSSED WITH SRV DESIRABILITY OF FAMILY REUNIONS ALSO FOR THE RED CROSS LIST OF 200-300 RELATIVES IN VIETNAM (NOT U.S. CITIZENS) WHO ALSO SEEK REUNION WITH AMCIT RELATIVES

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IN THE U.S. OVER AND ABOVE THESE CASES THERE ARE ALSO THE MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE IN THE U.S. (NOT AMCITS) WHO ALSO SEEK FAMILY REUNIONS.

7. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE INFORM ICRC AND UNHCR OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

8. SUGGEST PARIS TELL FRENCH AND BANGKOK INFORM THAI, AT YOUR DISCRETION.

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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FOL STATE 157218 SENT ACTION BANGKOK GENEVA PARIS INFO
HONG KONG VIENTIANE USUN CINCPAC JCTC BARBERS POINT HAWAII
JUNE 21, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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